

Claims

I claim:

1. A Collection Adaptive Focus GUI for adapting a graphical user interface to a new work situation, to be performed on or with the aid of a programmable device, comprising the following steps:

- (a) receiving a work situation change event,
- (b) obtaining a work situation definition corresponding to said work situation change event, and
- (c) performing an adaptive response that is defined by said work situation definition in response to said work situation change event,

wherein a work situation definition is comprised of a context, a base directory, a collection, a role, a timeset, and optional focus variables and focus groups, and wherein collections are comprised of a collection specifier and a set of collection content,

thereby providing a solution to the Adaptive Focus GUI Problem, and thereby providing graphical user interfaces with a practical means for adapting themselves to changes in user focus and work situations, in a way that was not previously available.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein

- (a) said step of receiving a work situation change event receives an event selected from the group consisting of initial invocation change events and full work situation change events and partial work situation change events and partial work situation context change events and partial work situation base directory change events and partial work situation collection change events and partial work situation role change events and partial work situation timeset change events and partial work situation focus variable change events and partial work situation focus variable group change events,

thereby helping to solve the Adaptive Focus GUI Problem, and

thereby helping to solve the Work Purpose Adaptation Problem, the Work Location Adaptation Problem, the Work Object Adaptation Problem, the Work Role Adaptation Problem, the Work Time Adaptation Problem, the Work Method Adaptation Problem, and

thereby providing users with one or more visual indications of a GUI focus change from a previous work situation to said new work situation, and thereby providing users with a new set of work operations that are relevant to said new work situation.

16. The process of claim 1, wherein

(a) said step of performing an adaptive response communicates adaptation results to one or more destinations selected from the group consisting of computer memories and computer display screens and computer files and computer networks,

thereby helping to solve the Collection Adaptive Focus GUI Problem, and thereby providing a practical means for displaying and storing adaptation results as part of said adaptive response.

17. A programmable Collection Adaptive Focus GUI device for adapting a graphical user interface to a new work situation, whose actions are directed by software executing a process comprising the following steps:

- (a) receiving a work situation change event,
- (b) obtaining a work situation definition corresponding to said work situation change event, and
- (c) performing an adaptive response that is defined by said work situation definition in response to said work situation change event,

wherein a work situation definition is comprised of a context, a base directory, a collection, a role, a timeset, and optional focus variables and focus groups, and wherein collections are comprised of a collection specifier and a set of collection content

thereby providing a solution to the Adaptive Focus GUI Problem, and thereby enabling graphical user interfaces to adapt themselves to changes in user focus and work situations in a scalable way that was not previously available.

18. The programmable device of claim 17, wherein

(a) said step of receiving a work situation change event receives an event selected from the group consisting of initial invocation change events and full work situation change events and partial work situation change events and partial work situation context change events and partial work situation base directory change events and partial work situation collection change events and partial work situation role change events and partial work situation time change events and partial work situation focus variable change events and partial work situation focus variable group change events,

thereby helping to solve the Adaptive Focus GUI Problem, and

thereby helping to solve the Work Purpose Adaptation Problem, the Work Location Adaptation Problem, the Work Object Type Adaptation Problem, the Work Role Adaptation Problem, the Work Time Adaptation Problem, the Work Method Adaptation Problem, the Work Object Instance Adaptation Problem, and

thereby enabling graphical user interfaces to respond to events corresponding to work situation change concepts of why, where, what, who, when, and how.

19. The programmable device of claim 17, wherein

(a) said step of receiving a work situation change event receives a work situation change event from a source selected from the group consisting of human operators and external programs and a GUI program that is executing said step of receiving a work situation change event,

computer memories and computer display screens and computer files and computer networks,

thereby helping to solve the Collection Adaptive Focus GUI Problem, and thereby providing a practical means for displaying and storing adaptation results as part of said adaptive response.

33. A computer readable memory, encoded with data representing a Collection Adaptive Focus GUI program that can be used to direct a computer when used by the computer, comprising:

- (a) means for receiving a work situation change event,
- (b) means for obtaining a work situation definition corresponding to said work situation change event, and
- (c) means for performing an adaptive response that is defined by said work situation definition in response to said work situation change event,

wherein a work situation definition is comprised of a context, a base directory, a collection, a role, a timeset, and optional focus variables and focus groups, and wherein collections are comprised of a collection specifier and a set of collection content

thereby providing a solution to the Adaptive Focus GUI Problem, and thereby enabling graphical user interfaces to adapt themselves to changes in user focus and work situations in a scalable way that was not previously available.

34. The computer readable memory of claim 33, wherein

- (a) said means for receiving a work situation change event receives an event selected from the group consisting of initial invocation change events and full work situation change events and partial work situation change events and partial work situation context change events and partial work situation base directory change events and partial work situation collection change events and partial work situation role change events and partial work situation time change events